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Letter dated 13 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the final declaration of the international conference entitled "Parliamentarians against Drugs" (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 108.

(*Signed*) V. **Nebenzia**

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Annex to the letter dated 13 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of the international conference entitled "Parliamentarians against Drugs"

Moscow, 4 December 2017

We, members of the parliaments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Argentine Republic, the Republic of Armenia, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Bulgaria, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Ecuador, the Republic of El Salvador, the French Republic, the Federal Republic of Germany, the Republic of Guinea, the Hellenic Republic, Hungary, the Republic of India, the Republic of Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lebanese Republic, the United Mexican States, the Kingdom of Morocco, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Republic of Peru, the Republic of the Philippines, the Portuguese Republic, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Serbia, the Slovak Republic, the Kingdom of Spain, the Swiss Confederation, the Republic of Tajikistan, the Kingdom of Thailand, the Republic of Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and the Republic of Uzbekistan, gathered in Moscow at the initiative of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for the international conference entitled "Parliamentarians against Drugs", hereby adopt the following declaration.

Realizing that the world drug problem, despite the efforts of the international community, remains a serious challenge which calls for an urgent response at the national and international levels;

Reaffirming the willingness to consistently implement the provisions of the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the United Nations General Assembly, entitled "Our joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem";

Commending the United Nations and, in particular, its Office on Drugs and Crime and the World Health Organization for their efforts to address the world drug problem;

Supporting regional and subregional initiatives and projects on countering the drug threat, which serve as an important complement to global counter-narcotics efforts and which, as a whole, establish a common strategy for the international community in combating drugs;

Recognizing the invaluable contribution of civil society to building effective social capacity to counter the spread of the drug threat, including reducing its impact on women, children and youth;

Noting new major challenges related to the emergence of new psychoactive substances and the use of the Internet for the distribution of drugs;

Emphasize the important contribution of parliamentarians from all over the world to countering the drug threat, including through the timely adoption of legislative acts on the basis of relevant norms of international law to protect society from the drug challenge;

Underscore the significant role of international solidarity in establishing and managing a reliable international system to protect society, including vulnerable groups, from drugs;

Call on the United Nations to continue to counter the drug problem as one of the key priorities of its work and to allocate adequate resources and capacities to address it;

Recommend that States parties continue to provide sufficient funding for relevant programmes of the United Nations and those of other international associations and entities;

Highlight the importance of providing further support to public-private partnerships in counter-drugs efforts;

Encourage further contributions from the mass media, the Internet community and outreach institutions to prevent drug abuse and protect the most vulnerable groups of the population, including women, children and youth, from its impact;

Urge prominent public figures, representatives of the cultural community and outstanding athletes to voice their support for the protection of society from the drug threat and to advocate in favour of a healthy lifestyle;

Acknowledge the role of the family and family values in raising a healthy generation in a drug-free environment;

Express our appreciation to the representatives of parliaments and civil society, including non-profit organizations, for their contribution to the convening and holding of this forum;

Take into consideration the proposal of the President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Ecuador to hold the second international conference, entitled "Parliamentarians against Drugs", in 2018 in the Republic of Ecuador;

Thank the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation for holding the international conference entitled "Parliamentarians against Drugs" and reaffirm our readiness to continue the practice of organizing such conferences on an annual basis.